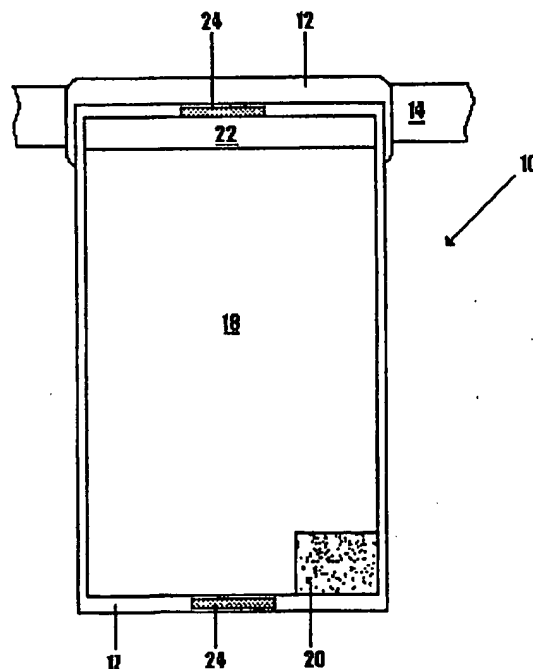




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : A63B 57/00, 47/04	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/67855 (43) International Publication Date: 16 November 2000 (16.11.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/ZA00/00062 (22) International Filing Date: 29 March 2000 (29.03.00) (30) Priority Data: 99/3185 10 May 1999 (10.05.99) ZA (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: KINSEY, Brett, Darren [ZA/ZA]; 69 Acasia Lofts, Bromhof Street, Boskruin, 2194 Randburg (ZA). (74) Agents: CLELLAND, Sandra, L. et al.; Hahn & Hahn Inc., 222 Richard Street, 0083 Hatfield (ZA).		(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: CLEANING DEVICE (57) Abstract <p>A cleaning device (10) for cleaning golf equipment includes a cleaning means consisting of a first piece of material (18) for cleaning of golf equipment, a strip of material (22) saturated with a suitable chemical to maintain the first piece of material (18) in an operative moist condition and a second piece of material (20) manufactured from an abrasive material for removing ingrained dirt from golf equipment the cleaning means being arranged on a backing sheet (17). The device (10) further includes an attachment means in the form of a sleeve (12) through which a user's belt passes to permit removable attachment of the cleaning means to a user's belt and a Velcro™ part (16) to permit removable attachment between the cleaning means and the sleeve (12).</p>		



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Cleaning Device

5 This invention relates to a device for cleaning golf equipment and, more specifically, for cleaning a golf ball and golf clubs during a game of golf.

 At present it is a common problem that the indentations on golf balls and the grooves on golf clubs become clogged with dirt particles during a game of golf,
10 thereby rendering the golf equipment less effective in use.

 The Applicant therefore believes that a need exists for a device which will enable a player to keep his golf equipment clean whilst playing a round of golf.

15 Thus, according to the invention there is provided a cleaning device for cleaning golf equipment including:-

 a cleaning means for cleaning of golf equipment; and

 an attachment means to permit removable attachment of the cleaning means to the clothing or clothing accessories worn by a user.

20

 The attachment means may include a first part, preferably in the form of a sleeve or loop through which a belt may pass, which is configured to be removably mounted on a user's belt and a second part, typically Velcro™ or a press stud arrangement to permit removable attachment between the cleaning means and the
25 first part.

The cleaning means may be arranged on a backing sheet, preferably formed from any suitable liquid impervious material such as , for example, a synthetic plastics material. The synthetic plastics material may be water resistant Oxford Nylon.

5

The cleaning means may include a first piece of material used for cleaning golf equipment typically manufactured from a material suitable for use as a cleaning cloth such as, for example, towelling.

10

The cleaning means may further include a second piece of material for removing ingrained dirt from golf equipment. The second piece of material may be located adjacent to the piece of material used for cleaning golf equipment or may partially overlay it.

15

The second piece of material may be manufactured from any suitable abrasive material such as, for example, the loop portion of Velcro™ so as to enable a user to remove ingrained dirt from his golf equipment.

20

The cleaning means may additionally include a moisture maintaining means for maintaining the first piece of material in an operative moist condition.

The moisture maintaining means in the form of strip of material may be located at a side of the cleaning means so as to enable it to maintain the first piece of material in a moist condition for prolonged periods of time, thereby enhancing its

cleaning capabilities. The moisture maintaining means may be dimensioned so as to have the same side length as the cleaning means and to be of narrower width.

In order for the moisture maintaining means to be able to maintain the first
5 piece of material in an operative moist condition for prolonged periods of time, it may be saturated with a solvent such as for example water, an alcohol solution or any other suitable solvent.

Since a user may wish to use the cleaning device to clean his hands during a
10 round of golf, the solvent may further include a moisturiser as well as an anti-bacterial agent for inhibiting the growth of bacteria on the cleaning means.

Additionally, the solvent may include a detergent or detergent solution so as to increase the effectiveness of the cleaning action of the cleaning means.

15

In an alternative embodiment, the moisture maintaining means may be in the form of an ultra-absorbent material which may be saturated with a solvent as described above prior to use of the cleaning device.

20 It is to be appreciated, that the invention may include any suitable method for maintaining the first piece of material in a moist, operative condition, such as, for example, manufacturing the entire first piece of material from an ultra-absorbent material which may be saturated with a solvent as described above prior to use of the cleaning device.

25

Releasable retaining means may be provided to retain the cleaning means and backing member in a lay flat folded condition. The releasable retaining means may be in the form of Velcro™ or any other suitable means such as, for example, a press stud arrangement.

5

It is to be appreciated, that the invention may include any suitable attachment means other than those described above such as, for example a clip which is attachable to the belt of a user and which is provided with Velcro™ to facilitate removable attachment of the cleaning means to the clip.

10

In use, the cleaning device may be attached to the belt of a user and be used to remove superficial or ingrained dirt from golf equipment before playing a shot so as to maximise the performance of the golf equipment.

15

The invention will now be described by way of the following non-limiting example with reference to the accompanying drawings

Figure 1 shows a rear view of a cleaning device in accordance with the invention;

20

Figure 2 shows a front view of the cleaning device of Figure 1; and

Figure 3 shows a side view of the device of Figures 1 and 2 in a lay flat folded condition.

25

In the drawings, reference numeral 10 generally indicates a cleaning device in accordance with the invention.

A cleaning device 10 for cleaning golf equipment includes a cleaning means for cleaning of golf equipment an attachment means to permit removable attachment of the cleaning means to the clothing or clothing accessories worn by a user.

5 The attachment means includes a sleeve 12 through which a belt 14 passes, which is configured to be removably mounted on a user's belt 14 and a second Velcro™ part 16 to permit removable attachment between the cleaning means and the sleeve 12.

10 The cleaning means is arranged on a backing sheet 17, preferably formed from any suitable liquid impervious material such as a synthetic plastics material, for example water resistant Oxford Nylon.

15 The cleaning means includes a first piece of material 18 used for cleaning golf equipment manufactured from a material suitable for use as a cleaning cloth such as, for example, towelling.

20 The cleaning means further includes a second piece of material 20 for removing ingrained dirt from golf equipment. The second piece of material 20 partially overlays the first piece of material 18 as shown in Figure 2.

25 The second piece of material 20 is manufactured from any suitable abrasive material such as, for example, the loop portion of Velcro™ so as to enable a user to remove ingrained dirt from his golf equipment.

The cleaning means additionally includes a moisture maintaining means in the form of strip of material 22 for maintaining the first piece of material 20 in an operative moist condition.

5 The moisture maintaining means in the form of strip of material 22 is located at a side of the cleaning means so as to enable it to maintain the first piece of material 18 in a moist condition for prolonged periods of time, thereby enhancing its cleaning capabilities. The strip of material 22 is dimensioned so as to have the same side length as the cleaning means and to be of narrower width as shown in Figure 2.

10

In order for the strip of material 22 to be able to maintain the first piece of material 18 in an operative moist condition for prolonged periods of time, it is saturated with a solvent including water, an anti-bacterial agent and a detergent.

15 Releasable retaining means in the form of Velcro™ strips 24 are provided to retain the cleaning means and backing member 17 in a lay flat folded condition as shown in Figure 3.

20 In use, the cleaning device 10 is attached to the belt 14 of a user and is used to remove superficial or ingrained dirt from golf equipment before playing a shot so as to maximise the performance of the golf equipment.

It is to be appreciated, that the invention is not limited to any specific constructional detail as hereinbefore described or illustrated.

25

CLAIMS

1. A cleaning device for cleaning golf equipment including:-
a cleaning means for cleaning of golf equipment; and
5 an attachment means to permit removable attachment of the cleaning means
to the clothing or clothing accessories worn by a user.
2. A cleaning device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the attachment means
includes a first part, preferably in the form of a sleeve or loop through which a belt
10 may pass, which is configured to be removably mounted on a user's belt and a
second part, typically Velcro™ or a press stud arrangement to permit removable
attachment between the cleaning means and the first part.
3. A cleaning device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the cleaning
15 means is arranged on a backing sheet formed from any suitable liquid impervious
material.
4. A cleaning device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the cleaning
means includes a first piece of material used for cleaning golf equipment typically
20 manufactured from a material suitable for use as a cleaning cloth.
5. A cleaning device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the cleaning means further
includes a second piece of material for removing ingrained dirt from golf equipment.

6. A cleaning device as claimed in claim 5 wherein the second piece of material is manufactured from any suitable abrasive material.

7. A cleaning device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the
5 cleaning means additionally includes a moisture maintaining means for maintaining the first piece of material in an operative moist condition.

8. A cleaning device as claimed in claim 7 wherein the moisture maintaining means in the form of strip of material is located at a side of the cleaning means so as
10 to enable it to maintain the first piece of material in a moist condition for prolonged periods of time, thereby enhancing its cleaning capabilities.

9. A cleaning device as claimed in claim 7 wherein the moisture maintaining means is saturated with a solvent.

15

10. A cleaning device as claimed in claim 9 wherein the solvent includes any one or more ingredients selected from the group including water, water solution, alcohol, alcohol solution, detergent, detergent solution, moisturiser and anti-bacterial agent.

20 11. A cleaning device as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 10 wherein the moisture maintaining means is an ultra-absorbent material which is saturated with a solvent prior to use of the cleaning device.

12. A cleaning device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein a releasable retaining means is provided to retain the cleaning means and backing member in a lay flat folded condition.

5 13. A cleaning device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the releasable retaining means is in the form of Velcro™ or any other suitable retaining means.

14. A cleaning device according to the invention, as hereinbefore generally described.

10

15. A cleaning device as specifically described with reference to or as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

16. A cleaning device including any new and inventive integer or combination of
15 integers, substantially as herein described.

1/2

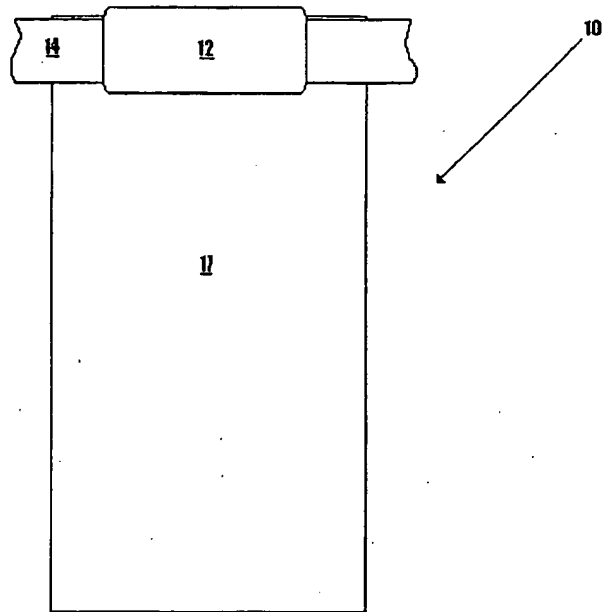


Figure 1

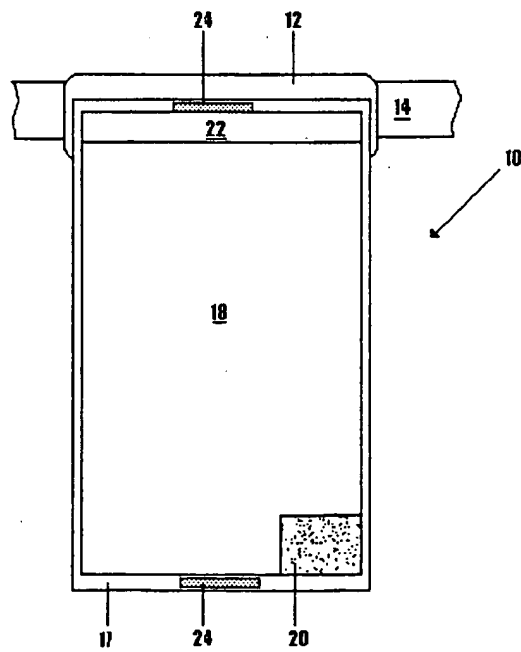


Figure 2

2/2

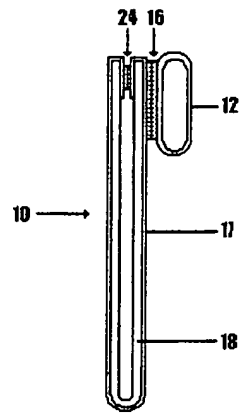


Figure 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/ZA 00/00062

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A63B57/00 A63B47/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A63B A47K A47L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 761 761 A (AN) 9 June 1998 (1998-06-09) the whole document ---	1,2,4-6, 12-16
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 06, 30 June 1997 (1997-06-30) & JP 09 047526 A (TSUSHIMA NORIYUKI; TECHNO SERVICE KK), 18 February 1997 (1997-02-18) abstract ---	1,3,4,7, 9,10, 12-16
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Y	CA 2 070 525 A (HEWSON ET AL.) 5 December 1992 (1992-12-05) page 5, line 35 -page 7, line 3; figures 9-13 ---	8,11
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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